

Design Resource

## Areca Leaf

The Craft of Making Leaf Plates

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Mr. J. Antony William  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/areca-leaf>



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Machines
3. Making Process
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## Introduction

Hiriyur town is located in Chitradurga district which is 160 km away from Bangalore in Karnataka state. The areca leaf plates are good biodegradable natural products. In Hiriyur, the areca leaf is abundantly available due to wide spread areca cultivation. The procured leafs are washed, soaked, moulded and baked using a simple leaf plate making machine. Currently these plates are used mostly in traditional, religious, auspicious occasions and in ceremonial functions and festivals.



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## Tools and Machines

The areca leaf plates are made from the sheaths which are attached to areca nut leaf covering the areca nut fruits. Raw material is procured from the local and surrounding areas of Hiriyyur. The manufacturing of areca leaf plates is done using single mechanized machine. The leaf plate machine does both the functions like cutting, moulding and heating, compressing the leaf. Different types of moulds (of various forms) like square, round, oval and rectangle can be used to give required kind of shape to the plate.



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## Making Process

Initially the areca nut sheaths are soaked in the water for 2 days to soften the material. The sheaths are dried under the sun. These dried leaves are cleaned with brush to remove the excess sand/dirt on the leaf. The cleaned leaf is stretched little to broaden the total area of the leaf particularly the breadth of the leaf. Next the leaf is inserted into the leaf making machine. The temperature is set between 170-180 degrees centigrade as to bake the leaf. The leaf obtains its shape when the mould is pressed on it. The excess leaf is automatically cut by the machine. Different types of shapes and sizes can be obtained by changing the moulds. The machine can be easily operated by a single person, thus saving time and also increasing the production volume.



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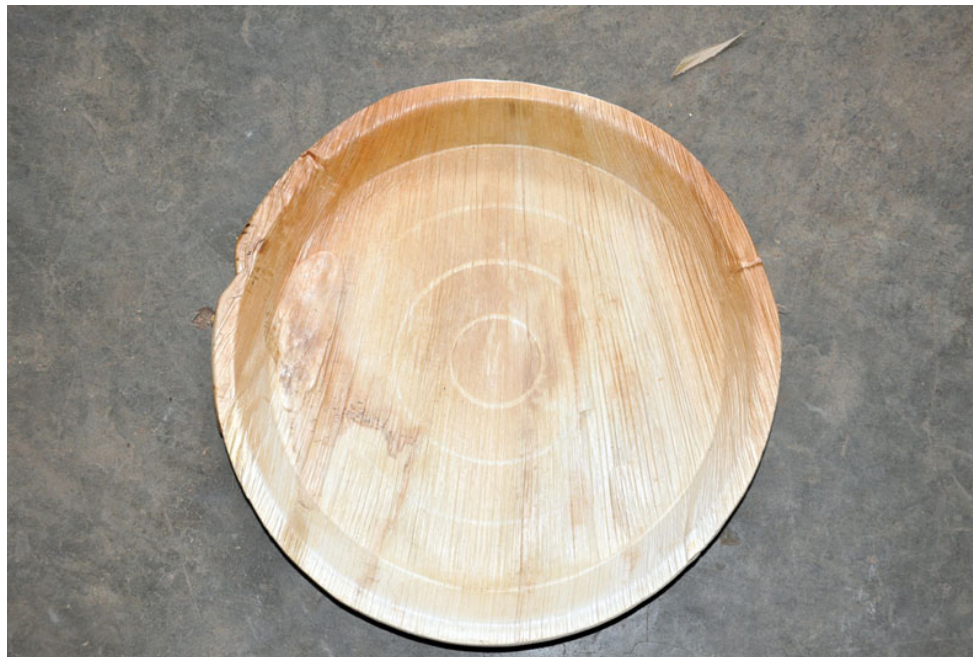
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## Products

Areca leaf plates are made naturally without using any chemicals. No artificial materials are used to enhance the strength of final products. The leaf products neither react with food nor spoil taste of the food. The leak proof areca leaf plates are available in different shapes and sizes and also can resist in hot and cold temperature.



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral** and Mr. J. Antony William at **NID, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with Professor Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu).

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